

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Typographical errors in paragraphs 00030, 00050 and 00058 of the specification have been corrected. Claims 1, 6 and 16 have been amended to clarify the service provider-defined nature of the blending. These amendments are supported by the specification as filed, for example at paragraphs 39-40. No new matter is added by these corrections and amendments.

I. Claims 1 - 10 and 12 - 15 are patentable over Knudson, which fails to describe a user interface having a service provider-defined blending of television program choices as presently claimed.

Knudson, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0149972 (hereinafter, "Knudson") describes an electronic program guide system that allows viewers to designate a set of "favorites", which may include linear and non-linear programming choices, and then view, browse and tune to any of the programming options from this filtered list. (see, e.g., Knudson's Figure 4, and the accompanying text cited by the Office Action). Such a system is, however, distinct from the user interface recited in the present claims. The claimed user interface provides a service provider-defined blending of linear and non-linear television program choices into categories or other groupings of content from which a viewer may select. Such a user interface is not taught by Knudson, hence, the present claims are patentable over this reference.

II. Claim 11 is patentable over Knudson, even when considered in combination with Sampsell, because neither reference describes a user interface having a service provider-defined blending of television program choices as presently claimed.

Claim 11 depends from claims 6 and, therefore, is patentable over Knudson for the reasons discussed above. Adding the teachings of Sampsell, U.S. Patent No. 6,219,839 (hereinafter, "Sampsell") does not alter this conclusion.

Sampsell describes a user interface and method to control the operation of multiple components in an audio/visual system. (Sampsell Column 1 Lines 8-10). It describes an Electronic

Resources Guide (ERG) that is capable of recognizing that a new A/V peripheral has been added to a network, learning how the peripheral is connected within the viewer's A/V system or network, integrating that information into a guide for the network, and then displaying that information so that the user may control and view the programming provided by the new peripheral much the same as a user may select to view broadcast programming displayed in an EPG. (Sampsell Column 2 Lines 19-27). Assuming such capabilities were integrated with the system described by Knudson, at most one would be provided with an electronic program guide system that allows viewers to designate a set of "favorites", which may include linear and non-linear programming choices, and which also displayed information concerning how a peripheral is connected within the viewer's A/V system or network. Such a guide would still not include a service provider-defined blending of television program choices from which a viewer may select, as presently claimed. Hence, claim 11 is patentable over this combination of references.

III. Claims 16-23 are patentable over Knudson, even when considered in combination with Alexander, because neither reference describes a user interface having a service provider-defined blending of information as presently claimed.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite the service-provider defined nature of the blending discussed above and, therefore, is patentable over Knudson for all of the same reasons as claims 1 and 6. Combining the teachings of Alexander, U.S. Patent No. 6,177, 931 (hereinafter, "Alexander") does not alter this conclusion.

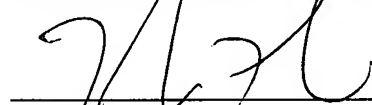
Alexander describes an EPG which allows a user to select an icon associated with a program option and thereby connect to an Internet website to learn more about the program. (Alexander Column 18 Lines 1-54, Figure 8). However, this managed content is not available on the same screen as the programming choices. Hence, combining these teachings with those of Knudson would, at most, lead to a system in which users would be provided with an electronic program guide system that allows viewers to designate a set of "favorites", which may include linear and non-linear programming choices, and which also allow the user to visit an Internet site to learn more about a programming option. This is distinctly different from the presently claimed user interface, which

includes a single screen having various regions for displaying a service provider-defined blending of non-linear programming information, linear programming information and managed content relevant to the linear and non-linear programming information. Consequently, claim 16 and its dependent claims are patentable over this combination of references.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tarek N. Fahmi', is written over a horizontal line.

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